

### The Organization.

After the defeat of 1896 the gold democrats met and congratulated themselves upon their part in the republican victory and demanded a re-organization of the party. A second defeat has brought forth another chorus of criticism and a demand that the party management be turned over to those who for the past four years have held themselves aloof from the organization and spent their time in condemnation of the policies endorsed in the party platform.

Men who have repudiated the party creed and the party candidates, and yet pride themselves upon their superior democracy, urge a return to what they call the first principles of democracy. Pressed for some definite statement of their views they either evade the question or resort to language too ponderous for the understanding. Whatever differences of opinion may exist concerning the various planks of the Kansas City platform, the indisputable fact remains that that platform embraces the essential principles of democracy as taught by all the great leaders of the past and as accepted by the rank and file. Many democrats who left the party in 1896 came back in 1900 and were cordially welcomed. While not agreeing to every policy set forth, they gave hearty support to the democratic candidates because they believed that the platform was sound in its cardinal principles.

Exact fulfilment of national pledges and adherence to the Constitution, perfect compliance with the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, firm advocacy of the Monroe Doctrine, stern antagonism to militarism, relentless opposition to trusts, uncompromising hostility to an unjust dollar and to a surrender to national banks of the money issuing functions of the government, strong protest against entangling alliance with any other nation, vigorous objection to the plan of wasting the people's money in subsidies to a few individuals, earnest appeal for the restoration of popular government and the principles which have given life and prosperity to the nation—these must represent the fundamental principles of democracy and these received the endorsement of the convention which met at Kansas City.

There is a marked difference between the methods employed by the democrats who believe in the Kansas City platform and the methods employed by those who oppose that platform. The former have fixed principles, state them without ambiguity and invite judgment upon them; the latter prate about principles, assume a "holier than thou" attitude and declaim about national honor and party traditions, but never put their principles into concrete form or outline a plan for dealing with present political problems. They are against the Kansas City platform, but what are they for? They are against the silver plank, but what financial policy do they propose? Do they favor the national bank note or the greenback? Are they for an income tax or against it? Do they favor the popular election of senators, or do they oppose it? What is their attitude on the question of private monopolies? What would they do with the Philippine Islands? How large an army do they think necessary? What do they think of government by injunction?

The party as now organized has taken a position on these questions and is ready to defend it. Let the re-organizers present a statement of their

views, equally definite and detailed, so that the voters, or the rank and file if you please, may act understandingly.

When these self-styled democrats left the party they said that they preferred principles to success; now they ask those who remained true to the party to surrender principles in order to secure success under their leadership and they promise success notwithstanding the fact that the defeat of 1894, which came under their leadership, was the most disastrous since 1872, and notwithstanding the further fact that the ticket which they nominated in 1896 carried but one precinct in the United States.

If any change in the present organization is necessary it can be made by the voters in the regular way and at the proper time. If in the meantime, any member of the organization dies, resigns or is replaced the new member ought to be in harmony with the people who select him, for, as a member of the organization, he acts in a representative capacity.

The only way to insure this harmony is to insist that the candidate shall be frank and candid in making known his views to those to whom he appeals, and every honest democrat seeking party prominence with a sincere desire to aid the party will be willing to make known his views on every disputed question. Beware of the man who boasts of his democracy but refuses to define it.

The so-called democrats who voted the republican ticket showed by so doing that they were nearer to the republican position than they were to the democratic position. In order to regain their confidence, they must undergo a change or the democratic party must move over toward the republican position. As the re-organizers have manifested no change of heart the effort to re-organize might more properly be called an effort to republicanize the democratic party. To make the effort a success the democrats must either be converted to republican ideas, or be deceived into the support of men who wear the livery of democracy, but lean toward republican doctrines.

### Tolstoi on Imperialism.

Tolstoi is credited with a severe criticism of American imperialism. He is quoted as saying:

You Americans are worse than the Mohammedans. They preach war and they fight; you preach liberty and peace and yet you go out to conquer through war.

He believes in "strenuous life," but he thinks that human activity can better be employed doing good than in killing people.

Russia's philosopher is wise enough to see and know that commercialism is the moving spirit behind imperialism and that "duty and destiny" are only masks.

### Imitation in Crime.

Since the abduction of the Cudahy boy at Omaha, rogues in various portions of the country have given imitations of that crime. In Alabama a boy was abducted and demand for ransom made. In Illinois, a well-to-do farmer was notified that unless he delivered a large sum of money under certain conditions his home would be destroyed by dynamite. Similar happenings have been noticed in other portions of the country. It is interesting to observe that in each instance the plans of the delivery of the money have been similar to those adopted in the Cudahy case. This

forces upon the public the thought that it is of the utmost importance to every community in the United States that the abductors of young Cudahy be arrested and punished. It is to be hoped that no effort will be spared by the public officials throughout the country to capture these rogues. Their arrest and prompt punishment will do much to discourage the terrible crime.

### Mr. Griggs is Consistent.

In his argument before the supreme court, Attorney-General Griggs declared that courts may enact one tariff rate in the states and another in the territories. Considerable surprise is manifested among eminent lawyers that the attorney-general should have gone so far, and yet Mr. Griggs was consistent. If congress can give one tariff rate in the states and another in our so-called colonies there is no reason why the same discrimination should not be possible with relation to our territories. It is possible, however, that the application of this discrimination to our territories would arouse some otherwise indifferent people to the iniquity of the discrimination against our colonies.

### To a Waterfowl.

By William Cullen Bryant.

Whither, midst falling dew,  
While glow the heavens with the last steps of day,  
Far, through their rosy depths, dost thou pursue  
Thy solitary way?

Vainly the fowler's eye  
Might mark thy distant flight to do thee wrong,  
As, darkly seen against the crimson sky,  
Thy figure floats along.

Seek'st thou the plashy brink  
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,  
Or where the rocking billows rise and sink  
On the chafed ocean-side?

There is a power whose care  
Teaches the way along the pathless coast—  
The desert and illimitable air—  
Lone wandering, but not lost.

All day thy wings have fanned,  
At that far height, the cold, thin atmosphere,  
Yet stoop not, weary, to the welcome land,  
Though the dark night is near.

And soon that toil shall end;  
Soon shalt thou find a summer home, and rest,  
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend,  
Soon, o'er thy sheltered nest.

Thou'rt gone, the abyss of heaven  
Hath swallowed up thy form; yet, on my heart  
Deeply has sunk the lesson thou hast given,  
And shall not soon depart.

He who, from zone to zone,  
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,  
In the long way that I must tread alone,  
Will lead my steps aright.

No senator will be justified in voting for a measure the necessity of which is urged on the ground that owners of American vessels cannot compete with foreigners in the carrying trade because the latter can hire sailors and officers more cheaply than they can, if it is so framed that crews of cheap Chinese and Japanese can be shipped. The people of the United States are willing to be taxed for the purpose of promoting the opportunities of Americans to earn a living, but they will rebel against any attempt to legislate purely in the interest of the investing class. —San Francisco Chronicle.